

W/O

~~TOP SECRET~~

2 October 1964

The Honorable Brockway McMillan  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brock:

This replies to your letter of September 30th recommending the establishment of a small committee to look into the radar cross section of the OXCART airplane.

As I indicated in our meeting on the 29th, I think this is a fine idea and am glad that Professor Purcell has agreed to chair the committee. Membership by Franklin Rodgers and Eugene Kiefer is also quite welcome to us as they both played an early role in this program. I think to round out the committee it would be helpful to have Dr. Richard Garwin of IBM as the fourth and final member, and I would hope that Professor Purcell would accept Dick Garwin on the committee.

In view of the importance of this study, I am making Mr. John Parangosky, the Deputy for Technology in the Office of Special Activities which is responsible for Program B, available on a full-time basis to the committee to handle all the detailed arrangements for travel and meetings. Mr. Parangosky is thoroughly familiar with all of the prior studies on this matter as well as with the personnel involved in OSI, SEI, Area 51,   including the several contractors involved. It should therefore not be necessary to assign an additional member from the NRO Staff to make these arrangements and otherwise service the committee. If the need for military aircraft should arise, and certainly this would be a great convenience, it would be most helpful if you could lay one on. I don't know how you are fixed for travel funds in the NRO budget but if this is any problem at all, we can fund it within NRO funds already made available to the Agency or from Agency funds direct.

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I consider it preferable to limit the scope of the committee to the four questions you enumerated in your letter and to the overall problem of radar cross section and improvements therein. This is one facet of the overall problem of vulnerability in which members of the committee are recognized experts. The many other facets such as enemy air defense deployments, operational planning for missions, deception procedures before and during missions, electronic counter-measures, and additional factors not listed which make up a total vulnerability study, should not be charged to this committee. However, they should have available any and all reviews on the radar cross section problem that are available from all the agencies and contractors who have a hand in this problem.

You may rest assured that the total assets of the Agency will continue to be made available, and we are prepared to proceed immediately. I suggest that as soon as you have received Professor Purcell's acceptance of Dick Garwin, you let me know and I will have Mr. Parangosky contact Professor Purcell direct. I should think Professor Purcell should render a written report to you as Director, NRO, with copies to Mr. Vance and Mr. McCone.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ Pat

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director

MSC:blp/blh

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